

# Solon Prairie



713 East 5th St  
Solon, IA 52333

**Overview:** Solon Prairie is a three-acre wet-mesic prairie. This prairie is a relict, meaning that it has never been plowed. Though often overlooked, this small park is a gem, and provides visitors with a dazzling display of color each year. 157 native plant species have been recorded on site. The prairie is located within the Solon city limits and is surrounded by housing developments.



**History:** The Solon Gun Club acquired the property in 1966 from the Kessler family, who had owned it since 1876. For the next seventeen years the land was used for a trapshooting range and a small clubhouse was located there. In 1983, the Solon Gun Club conveyed ownership to Johnson County Conservation (JCC). The area is preserved as a natural prairie and is available for public use as a botanical study area. A prairie management plan was developed for it in 1984, which includes a quadrennial burn management program, used to control invaders and enhance native species. Much native grass and wildflower seed has been gathered from this area for establishment in other JCC areas.



**Features:** The Prairie is a living natural history museum and gives the visitor a microcosmic view of the predominant vegetation of 80% of the state of Iowa at the time of settlement. It is a valuable outdoor classroom, and a great place for nature study and bird watching.



# Solon Prairie

713 East 5th St  
Solon, IA 52333



**Legend**

- Parking
- Conservation Area
- Road Centerline

